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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 RSR-01

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R 311020 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2602

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2120

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PDEV, AF
SUBJECT: CALL ON PRIME MINSTER

SUMMARY: I SAW PRIME MINISTER TUESDAY, MARCH 27, AT MY REQUEST. RAISED THREE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SUBJECTS ON WHICH I HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY AID MISSION DIRECTOR AND LEFT OUTLINE PAPERS. TOPICS WERE CURRENT STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF AFGHAN FERTILIZER COMPANY, PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, OPERATION HELP CUM DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ORGANIZATION. OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. I SAW PRIME MINISTER MUSA SHAFIQ AT MY REQUEST MORNING MARCH 27, AND RAISED THREE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS. I NOTED URGENCY OF RGA MEETING ITS COMMITMENT TO AFC (AND AID) OF CASH CONTRIBUTION 95 MILLION AFGHNIS (PLUS 33 MILLION AFGHANIS IN PAK RUPEES), AND REQUIREMENT UNDER LOAN TO NOTIFY AFC OF INCREASE IN WHOLESALE PRICE OF UREA AND DAP FOR ALL SEASON BY APPROXIMATELY 50 AFS. PER BAG. I REMINEDED HIM BOTH ACTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR APRIL 15 IN ORDER PERMIT TENDERS AND DELIVERY OF FERTILIZER BY AUGUST 15. IN ADDITION, I CITED FAILURE THUS FAR RGA TO COMPLETE TURN OVER TO AFC OF STOCKS OF FERTILIZER AND WAREHOUSES AS RGA COMMITTED TO DO. SPECIFICALLY NOTED EHAT CONTINUATION OF
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FERTILIZER SALES BY RGA AND WERE IN REALITY COSTING RGA MONEY. PM SAID HE AWARE OF SOME OF THIS PROBLEM, AND AS MATTER OF FACT WAS EXPECTING REPORT OF SPECIAL INSPECTORS ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 28 ON THIS SUBJECT. ASSURED ME OF RGA' S INTENTION TO RESOLVE ISSUES PROMPTLY.

2. I THEN RAISED QUESTION AFC LEADERSHIP AND PM ASKED ME IF DR. ZARIF SALEM, FORMER DEAN OF KABUL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE DOING WELL AS ACTING PRESIDENT. I POINTED OUT THAT IT DIFFICULT FOR ANYONE IN ACTING POSITION TO BE TRULY EFFECTIVE IN MANAGING ANY MAJOR ENTERPRISE. PM SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT OF MAIWAND. I SAID MAIWAND ENERGETIC, HONEST, BUT RATHER UNPOLISHED IN HIS INTER- PERSONAL RELATIONS AND STEPS ON MANY TOES, ADDING, HOWEVZR, THAT MAKING HIM HEAD OF AFC WOULD GET HIM OUT OF PM' S HAIR. PM AGREED JOKINGLY, AND SAID HE FELT MAIWAND COULD DO JOB AND HE NEEDS ONE WHICH WOULD OCCUPY HIM FULLY.

3. AT THIS POINT, SHAFIQ SAID HE HAD QUIETLY BROUGHT INTO PRIME MINISTRY AS CHIEF LIAISON MAN FOR AFC, OPERATION HELP, AND PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT FORMER UNIVERSITY RECTOR BAHA. SHAFIQ THEN CONFIRMED THAT ASAFI IS OFFICIALLY NAMED TO BE NEW CHIEF OF PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, BUT UNTIL HE REACHES KABUL FROM LASHKAR GAH, BAHA WOULD FILL IN AT PDD FOR HIM. IN RESPONSE MY NOTING THAT PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS SPECIALLY RECRUITED AND TRAINED FOR PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT HAVE DEEN HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WITHOUT WORK BECAUSE PDD OPERATION SUSPENDED PENDING REORGANIZATION, PM ASSURED ME AND ASKED THAT I ASSURE PEACE CORPS THAT VOLUNTEERS HAVE VERY SPECIAL PLACE IN HIS MIND AND HEART. IN FORMER YEARS HE GAVE ORIENTATION LECTURES TO P. C. HE SAID THEY SHOULD BE ASSURED THAT THEIR TALENTS WILL BE USED. I ACKNOWLEDGED HIS REMARKS, AND REITERATED NEED FOR CLEAR- CUT ESTABLISHMENT OF MEANINGFUL PRIORITIES WITH REGARD TO FOOD FOR WORK AND PDD. SHAFIQ SAID HE WILL INFORM HIMSELF FURTHER ON GENERAL PROBLEM AND WILL BE SPEAKING WITH ME LATER.

4. I THEN RAISED EXISTENCE OF CONFUSION REGARDING PRECISE ROLE OF NEW OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. I POINTED OUT THAT APPOINTMENT OF DR. KAYUMI WAS FINE, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE A LACK OF CLARITY BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITIES OF NEW OFFICE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR FOLLOW- ON TO OPERATION HELP, AND LONGER RANGE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. CONFUSION HAS SERIOUS CON-
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SEQUENCES, BECAUSE THERE MAY AGAIN BE DEVELOPING EMERGENCY IN

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CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND THIS OFFICE SHOULD BE ACTING TO MEET IT.
I NOTED THAT GREAT DEAL OF PUBLICITY HAD BEEN GIVEN TO MOVEMENT
OF WHEAT AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO HELP THESE PEOPLE BEFORE WINTER
CAME. IT IS NOW ESSENTIAL TO FIND OUT IF THOSE PEOPLE NEED
FURTHER EMERGENCY HELP AT THIS TIME AND MOBILIZE TO PROVIDE
IT IN ORDER THAT THEY NOT STARVE THIS SPRING. ONE SHOULD ASCERTAIN
WHETHER THEY REQUIRE REHABILITATION TO OVERCOME RESULTS OF LAST

YEAR' S PROBLEMS RATHER THAN EMERGENCY FEEDING. PM AGAIN SAID HE
WOULD REVIEW SITUATION AND DISCUSS FURTHER WITH ME.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL02120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimmk.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980109
Subject: CALL ON PRIME MINSTER
TAGS: EAID, PDEV, AF
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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